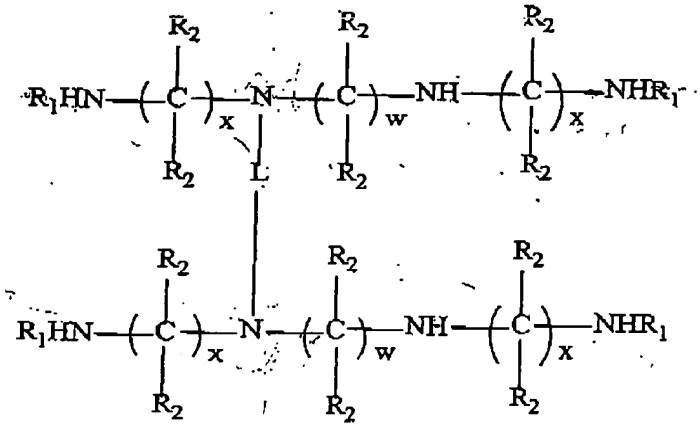
IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 24-26 and 32-43 and insert new claims 44 to 51 as follows:

44. (new) A polyamine dimer formed of two polyamine units, each having at least three amino groups including an intermediate amino group, said units being attached to each other by alkylation through a linker which is a chemical entity that is covalently attached to both said intermediate amino groups.

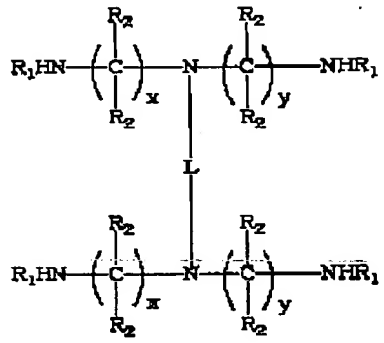
45. (new) A synthetic polyamine dimer as defined in claim 44 having the following structure (2):



Wherein R_1 is H, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl or isopropyl, R_2 is H or methyl, x is greater than two and less than five ($2 < x < 5$), w is greater than 2 and less than five ($2 < w < 5$) and L is a linker as defined in claim 44.

46. (new) The synthetic polyamine dimer as defined in claim 45, wherein $x = 3$, R_1 is a hydrogen atom R_2 is a methyl (CH_3) group for the carbon atom located next to each NH -R group and is a hydrogen atom for all those carbons and $w = 4$.

47. (new) A synthetic polyamine dimer as defined in claim 44, having the following structure (3):



wherein R_1 and R_2 are as defined in claim 45, where x and y are greater than 2 and smaller than 5 ($2 < x < 5$, $2 < y < 5$), where the sum of x and y is greater than 5 and smaller than 9 ($5 < (x + y) < 9$) and where L is a linker as defined in claim 44.

48. (new) The synthetic polyamine dimmer as defined in claim 47, wherein the chemical linker comprises an alkyl, an aryl and/or a heterocyclic group.

49. (new) The synthetic polyamine dimer as defined in claim 47, wherein R_1 is H, x is 3 or 4, y is 3 or 4.

50. (new) The synthetic polyamine dimer as defined in claim 47, wherein the linker L is an aliphatic carbon chain having a structure – $(CH2)_n$-, where n is greater than 2 and less than 10.

51. (new) The synthetic polyamine dimer as defined in claim 47, when L is xylene.